

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The non-final Office Action of April 9, 2004, has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested. Claim 24 has been amended. Claims 1-23 and 28-39 have been canceled. Claims 40-64 have been added. Claims 24-27 and 40-64 remain pending.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 24-27 are allowed. Claim 24 has been amended to correct a minor typographical error.

Claims 1-23 and 28-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rignell et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,818,920, hereinafter referred to as *Rignell*). Applicants have canceled claims 1-23 and 28-39.

Support for new claims 40-64 can be found throughout the original written description and drawings. New claims 40-50, which depend from claim 24, are patentably distinct over the art of record for at least the same reasons as their ultimate base claim and further in view of the novel features recited therein. New claims 51-64 include many of the features as recited in Applicants' allowed claims 24-27. Applicants submit that new claims 51-64 are allowable over the art of record for similar reasons.

CONCLUSION

All rejections having been addressed, Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicit prompt notification of the same. Should the Examiner find that a telephonic or personal interview would expedite passage to issue of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below. If any additional required fees are or if an overpayment has been made the Commissioner is authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. 19-0733. Applicants look forward to passage to issue of the present application at the earliest convenience of the Office.

Respectfully submitted,
BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Date: July 7, 2004

By: 

Bradley C. Wright
Registration No. 38,061

1001 G Street, N.W.
Eleventh Floor
Washington, D.C. 20001-4597
(202) 824-3000

Appl. No. 09/850,197
Amdt. Dated July 7, 2004
Reply to Non-Final Office Action of April 9, 2004

Replacement Sheets

Appl. No. 09/850,197
Amdt. Dated July 7, 2004
Reply to Non-Final Office Action of April 9, 2004

Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

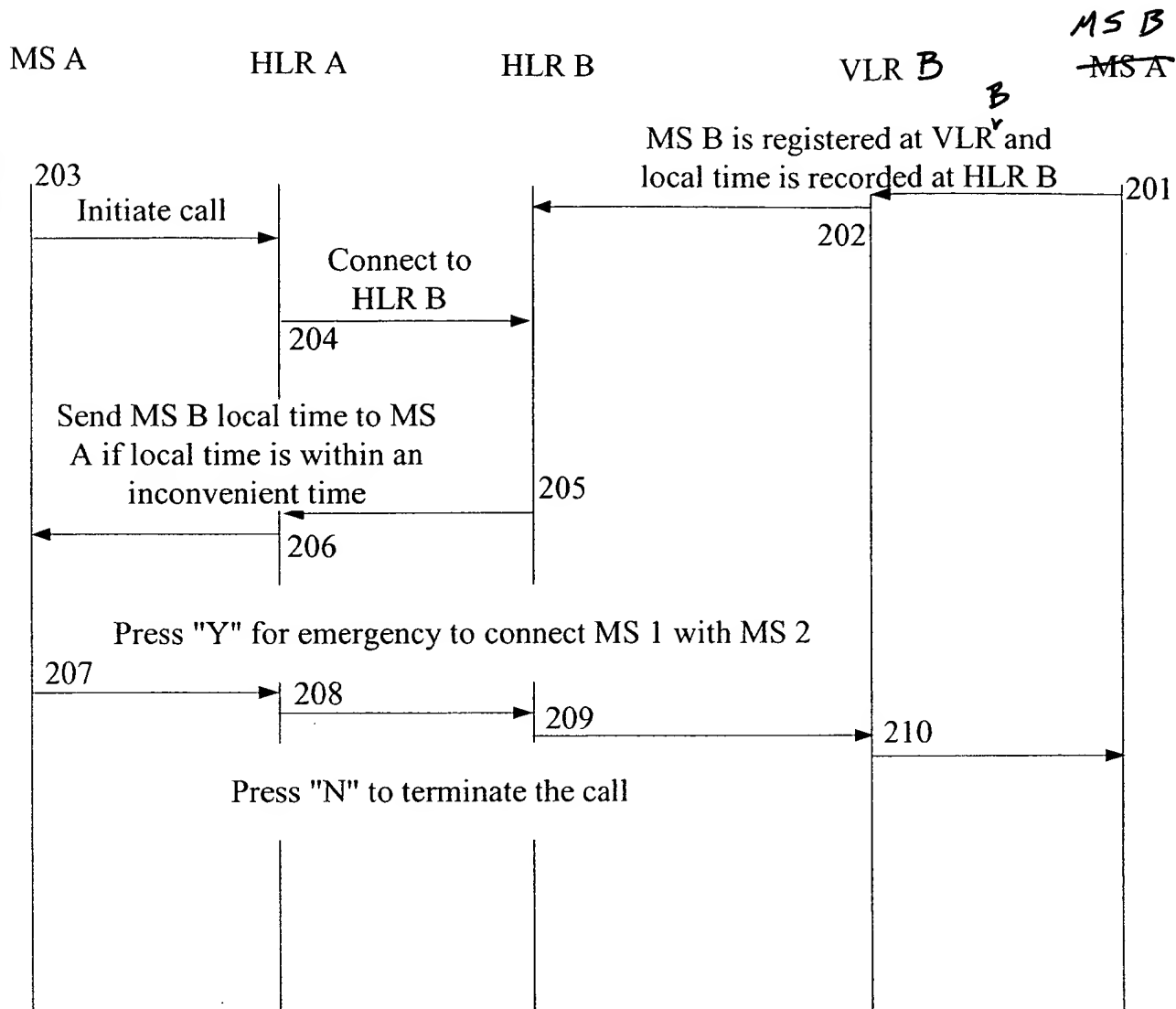


FIG. 2

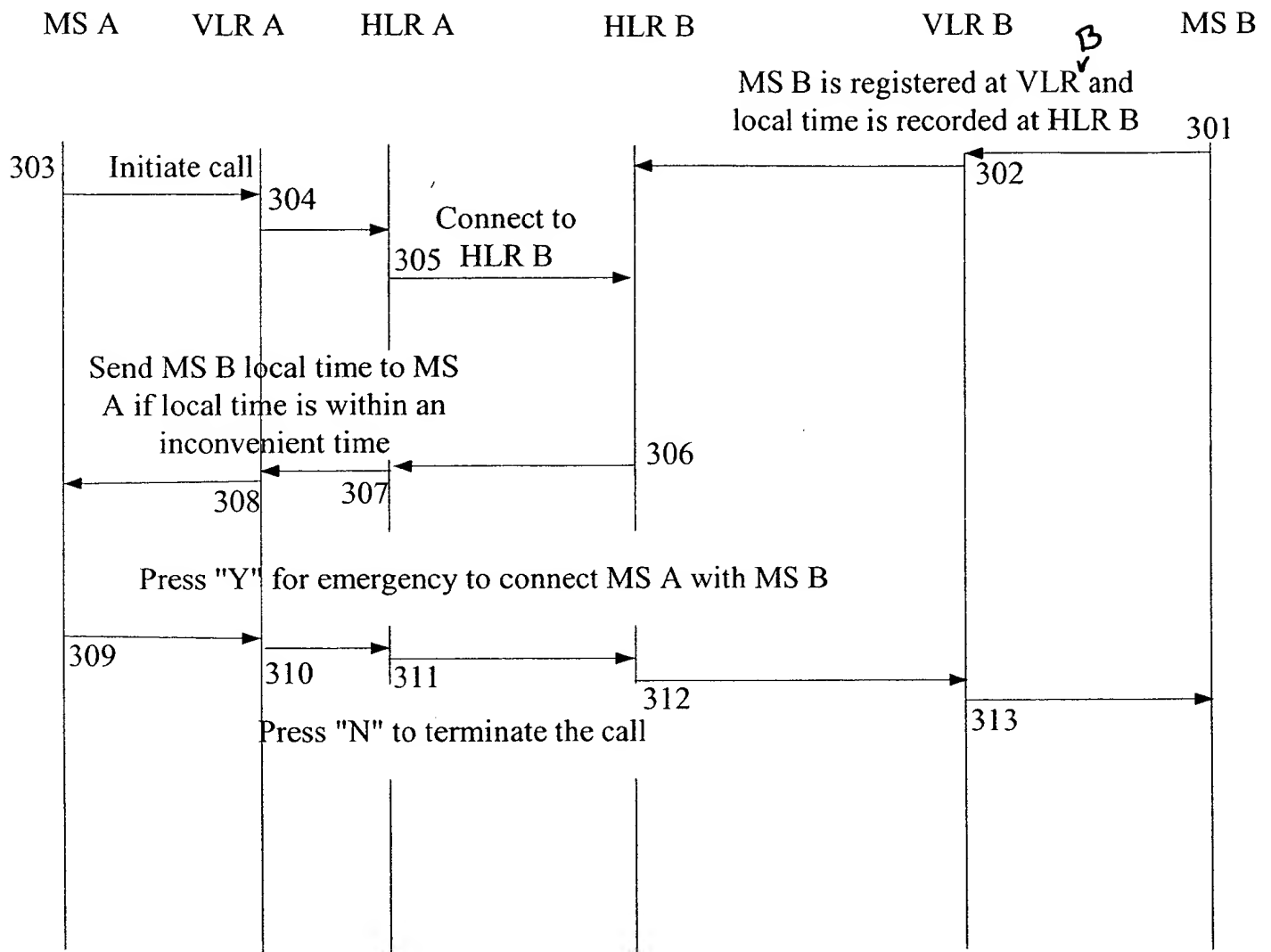
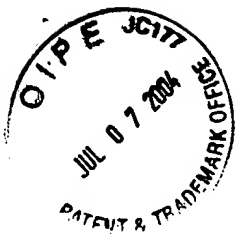


FIG. 3



MS A

HLR A

HLR B

VLR B

MS B

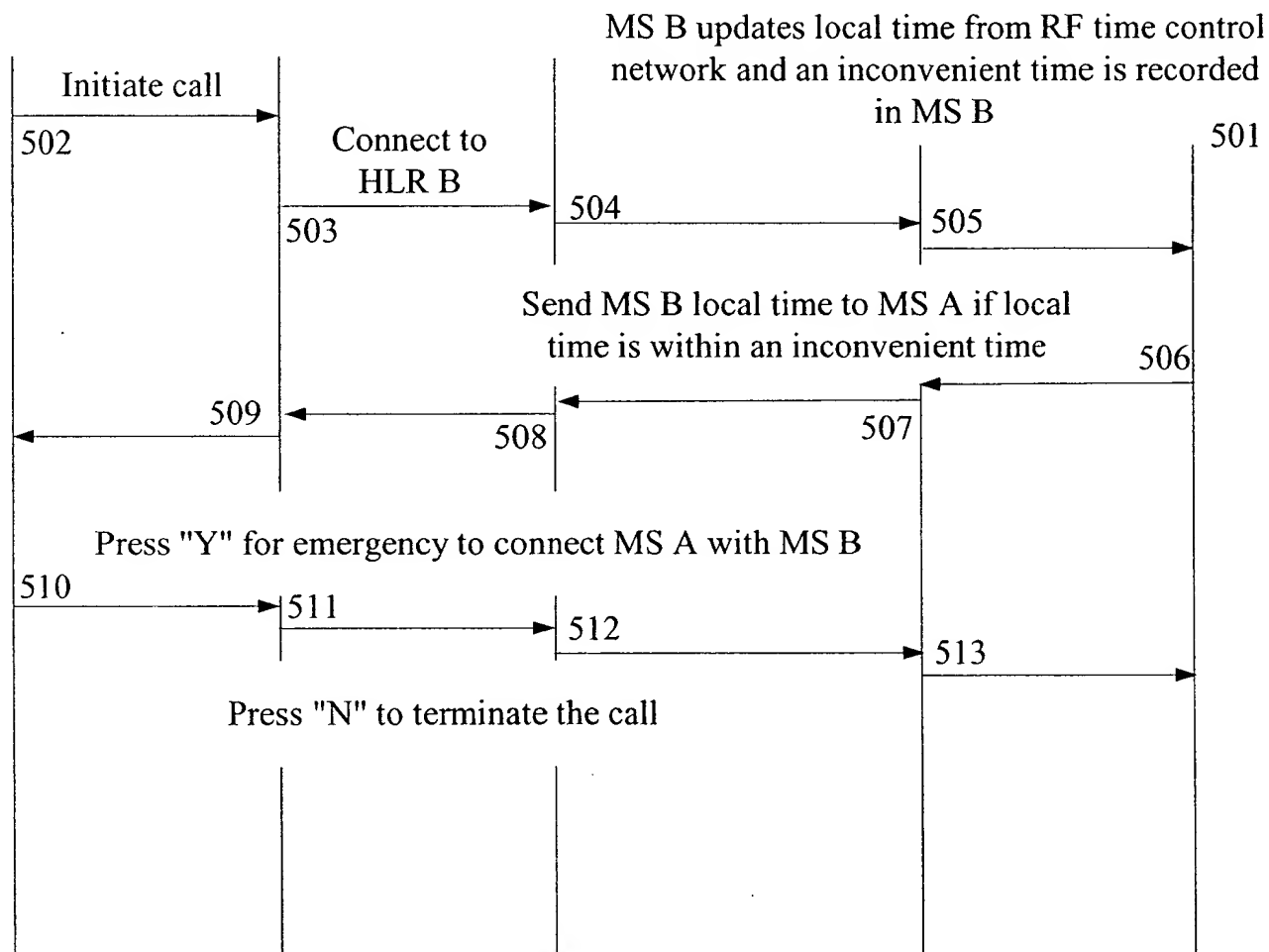


FIG. 5

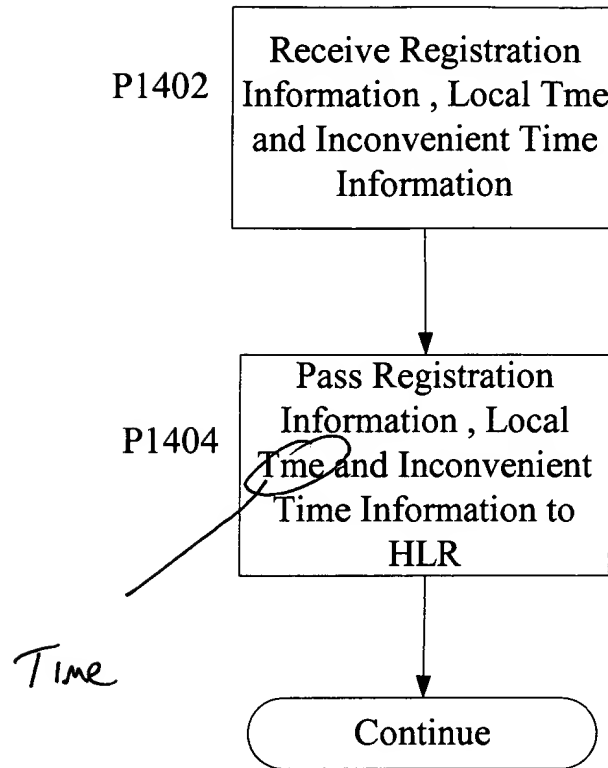


FIG. 14

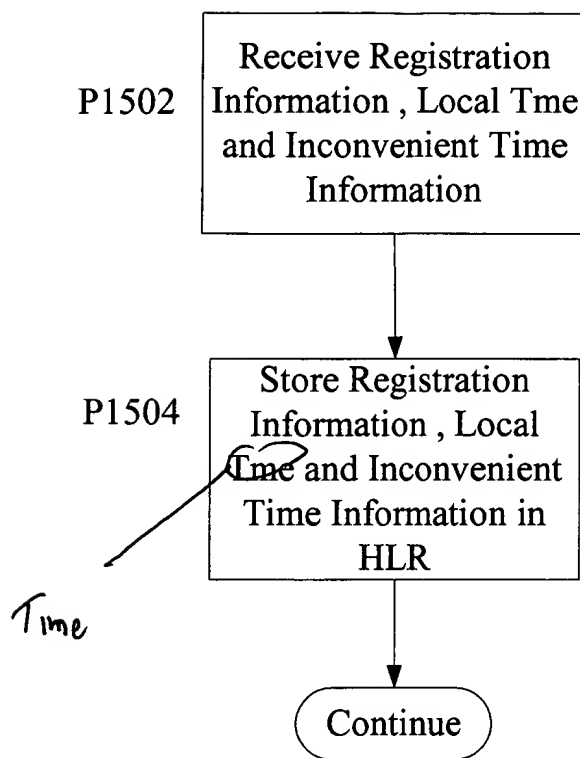


FIG. 15A

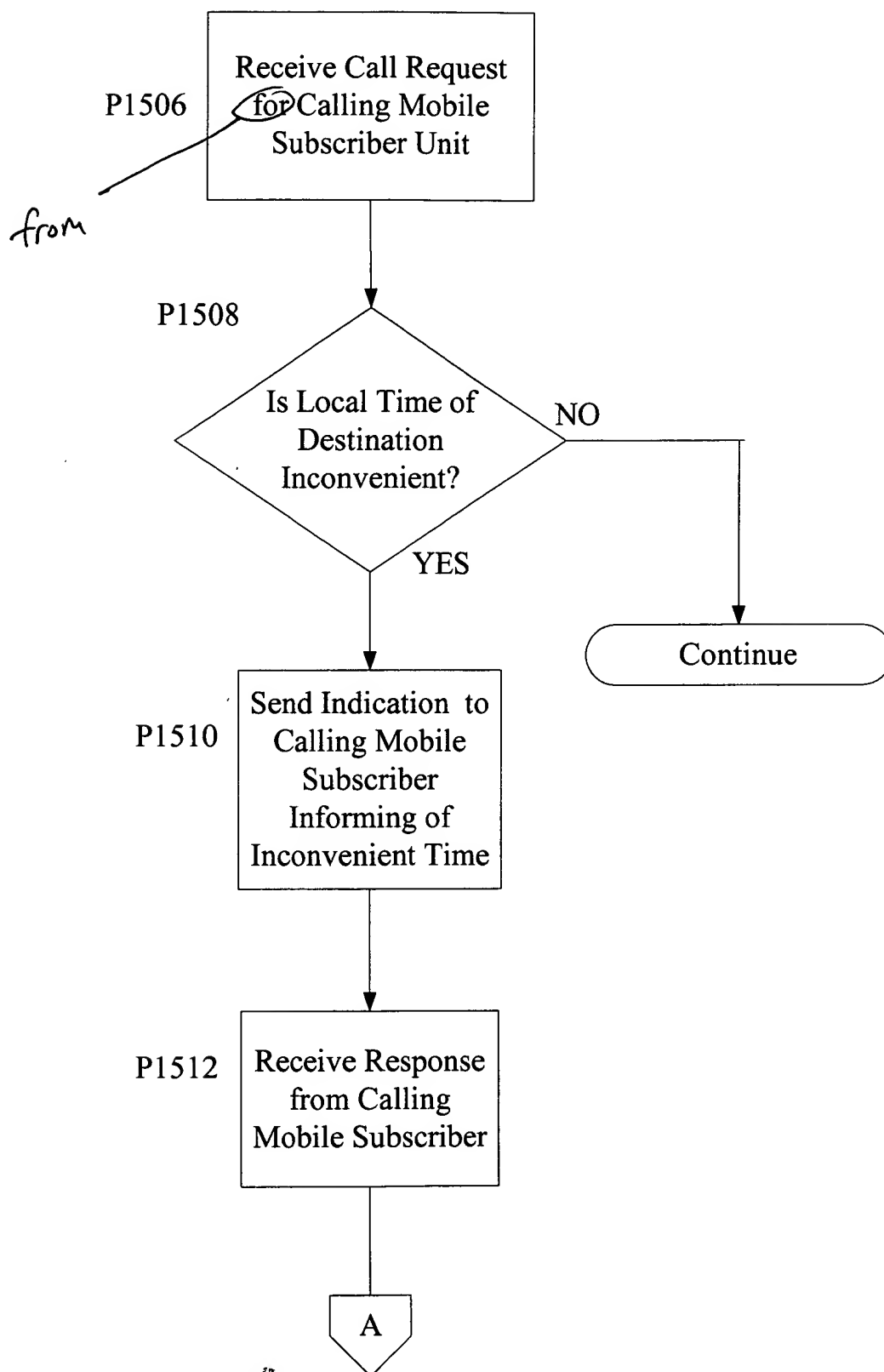


FIG. 15B